

# Improving Reading by Engaging Learners

## ***My Action Research Project***

*"Follow effective action with quiet reflection. From the quiet reflection will come even more effective action." Peter Drucker*

**Focus:** Improving Reading by engaging learners

**Question:** How can I use technology to improve children's Reading skills?

**Purpose:** To improve student achievement in Reading by using ICT tools.

**Class Level:** Year 1

**Number of Children:** 14



# What did I do?

- Whole class response to shared book using



- I went through the steps of using the application, made instruction sheets
- Worked with kids to create slide shows and podcast
- Kids worked independently to respond to text
- Kids worked collaboratively with peers to respond to text



- We read the book of the week and talked about the story
- Children retold the story at Writing time and created the picture to match their story in Kid-Pix during Reading
- I published the story
- On Friday children read, decoded and practised their story with my support
- Then their voices were recorded, pictures uploaded
- While doing this I went through the process of creating the slide show



- Mid Term 2 I worked with a group of children during my release time or on Friday to complete projects. During the week children planned 4 slides to go with their readers. By Thursday they had to have a title slide, the beginning, middle and end. During Reading we discussed their story and I scribed it for them sometimes. They decoded to read and practised to make it perfect. We recorded together.



- Then children started to work independently and the experts helped others in their reading group. By this time 7 children were involved. They reflected on their work as a group and sometimes as a class.
- Children used kid-Pix slide show and Garageband.



- We continued to do whole class projects too.



- In Term 3 we continued doing the same. Children were introduced to Glogster and Voicethread.
- Some whole class projects using Kid-Pix and Garageband.
- Now children work collaboratively in groups to retell.



# What happened as a result?

- All kids have made a great improvement in their Oral Language and Reading
- This has transferred into their Writing where children write 8 sentences or more using various sentence starters, adjectives, and try to use more advanced punctuation. 1 child needs encouragement to write
- They have learned to express their ideas using images, sound and video
- Their work has been viewed by a bigger audience on the blog and this has empowered my students to share their learning to visitors and reflect on their work



# What happened as a result?

- It has deepened understanding of what they have read and are able to talk or write about it
- ICT has sustained their engagement for longer periods than other activities
- Students are confident in the use of computers and well planned integration has improved over all learning and motivation. Children create content (KidPix slideshows, Podcasts) rather than consume content (playing games on the computers)
- I have made a shift in how I use e-learning integration, boosting my confidence in its use



# Feedback from Parents and students

- Student Online Survey  
(End of Term 3)

- Parent Response

ICT has supported my child in all aspects. He was lacking confidence and now he is peaking. Personally I feel using computers for this age is excellent

Has helped her understand letters and sounds more, because she is playing and learning at the same time.

I think this is a clever way because kids learn and enjoy at the same time by using a technological programme.



	Feb/ <b>March</b> Term 1 2010					October Term 4	
Child	Letter recoanition	Letter sound	Reading level	Writing		Reading	Writing
<b>1T</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>Pre</b>		<b>12</b>	<b>1P</b>
<b>2B</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>Pre</b>		<b>15</b>	<b>1P</b>
<b>3F</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>Pre</b>		<b>12</b>	<b>1A</b>
<b>4H</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>Pre</b>		<b>15</b>	<b>1A</b>
<b>5J</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>Pre</b>		<b>Left</b>	<b>Left</b>
<b>6V</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>Pre</b>		<b>12</b>	<b>1B</b>
<b>7B</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1B</b>		<b>20</b>	<b>1A</b>
<b>8J</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>Pre</b>		<b>15</b>	<b>2B</b>
<b>9S</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>Pre</b>		<b>15</b>	<b>1A</b>
<b>10E</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>Pre</b>		<b>12</b>	<b>2B</b>
<b>11B</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>Pre</b>		<b>10</b>	<b>1P</b>
<b>12M</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>Pre</b>		<b>Left</b>	<b>Left</b>
<b>13E</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>Pre</b>		<b>15</b>	<b>1A</b>
<b>14A</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>Pre</b>		<b>12</b>	<b>1P</b>

Kids at school from Term 3/4 2009

Kids from Feb 2010

Kids from **March** 2010

ESOL kids



# Next Steps for Teaching and Learning

- Plan for e-learning integration in my Literacy programme.
- Continue to use Kid-Pix and GarageBand. Children will complete 1 slideshow in 2 weeks once they begin working independently. (Hopefully mid-term 2)
- Respond to shared books in Comic Life.
- Children will use Fotobabble to publish



# Links

- Action Research Wiki:  
Here you can read how I went about my action research and the final report.



<http://reflections2010.wikispaces.com/>

- Class Blog: Evidence of student work

*Over the Rainbow*

<http://room03eps.blogspot.com/>

- Kids' Survey:

<https://spreadsheets.google.com/cc?key=0AoP6WdIx6q6-dC0ybVNkNlZPQXRGU2xEc0hVb1d2dFE&hl=en>

[veronica@elpark.school.nz](mailto:veronica@elpark.school.nz)